

Postmasters General

The camp is now operated by their son, G. Frank Madsen and his wife Chloe, who still have an excellent dining room.

The original Madsen Brothers Camp is now operated by Tony Madsen, a son of Charles. It, along with the Fred Clark Camp and the Howard Carpenter Camp, are popular gathering places for fishermen and sportsmen.

## POSTMASTERS GENERAL

Name	Took Office	Under President	Name	Took Office	Under President
*Benjamin Franklin	1775	†	Thomas L. James	1881	Garfield,
Richard Bache	1776	†**			Arthur
Ebenezer Hazard	1782	**	Timothy O. Howe	1882	Arthur
Samuel Osgood	1789	Washington	Walter Q. Gresham	1883	Arthur
*Timothy Pickering	1791	Washington,	Frank Hatton	1884	Arthur
Joseph Habersham	1795	Washington,	William F. Vilas	1885	Cleveland
		J. Adams,	Don M. Dickinson	1888	Cleveland
		Jefferson	*John Wanamaker	1889	B. Harrison
Gideon Granger	1801	Jefferson,	Wilson S. Bissell	1893	Cleveland
		Madison	William L. Wilson	1895	Cleveland
Return Meigs, Jr.	1814	Madison,	James Gary	1897	McKinley
		Monroe	Charles E. Smith	1898	McKinley,
John McLean	1823	Monroe,			T. Roosevelt
		J. Q. Adams,	Henry C. Payne	1902	T. Roosevelt
		Jackson	Robert J. Wynne	1904	T. Roosevelt
William T. Barry	1829	Jackson	George B. Cortelyou	1905	T. Roosevelt
*Amos Kendall	1835	Jackson,	George von L. Meyer	1907	T. Roosevelt
		Van Buren	Frank H. Hitchcock	1909	Taft
John M. Niles	1840	Van Buren	Albert S. Burleson	1913	Wilson
Francis Granger	1841	W. H. Harrison,	Will Hays	1921	Harding
		Tyler	Hubert Work	1922	Harding
Charles A. Wickliffe	1841	Tyler	Harry S. New	1923	Harding,
Cave Johnson	1845	Polk			Coolidge,
*Jacob Collamer	1849	Taylor			Hoover
Nathan K. Hall	1850	Fillmore	Walter F. Brown	1929	Hoover
Sam D. Hubbard	1852	Fillmore	*James A. Farley	1933	F. D. Roosevelt
James Campbell	1853	Pierce	Frank C. Walker	1940	F. D. Roosevelt,
Aaron V. Brown	1857	Buchanan			Truman
Joseph Holt	1859	Buchanan	Robert E. Hannegan	1945	Truman
Horatio King	1861	Buchanan,	Jesse M. Donaldson	1947	Truman
		Lincoln	Arthur E. Summerfield	1953	Eisenhower
*Montgomery Blair	1861	Lincoln	J. Edward Day	1961	Kennedy
William Dennison	1864	Lincoln,	John A. Gronouski	1963	Kennedy,
		A. Johnson			L. B. Johnson
Alexander W. Randall	1866	A. Johnson	*Lawrence F. O'Brien	1965	L. B. Johnson
John A. J. Creswell	1869	Grant	W. Marvin Watson	1968	L. B. Johnson
James W. Marshall	1874	Grant	Winton M. Blount	1969	Nixon
Marshall Jewell	1874	Grant	Elmer T. Klassen	1972	†
James N. Tyner	1876	Grant	Benjamin F. Bailar	1975	†
David M. Key	1877	Hayes	William F. Bolger	1978	†
Horace Maynard	1880	Hayes			

\*Has a separate biography in WORLD BOOK.

†Served under the Continental Congress.

\*\*Served under the Congress of the Confederation.

**History.** The Continental Congress created a postal service in 1775 and appointed Benjamin Franklin as the first postmaster general. Congress passed the first postal act in 1789. From that year until 1971, all postmasters general were appointed by the President. The postmaster general became a member of the President's Cabinet in 1829, and the Post Office Department became an executive department in 1872.

On Aug. 12, 1970, President Richard M. Nixon signed a bill to replace the Post Office Department with the new United States Postal Service. The bill also removed the postmaster general from the President's Cabinet. The Postal Service began operating on July 1, 1971.

Critically reviewed by the U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

See also POST OFFICE with its list of Related Articles.

**POSTAL UNION, UNIVERSAL (UPU)** is a specialized agency of the United Nations that sets rules for the free flow of mail between countries. It works to promote international cooperation in organizing and improving postal services. The UPU provides postal technical assistance to member countries. By the early

1970's, the UPU had about 150 members, which constituted a single postal territory for exchanging first-class mail. Postal authorities in those countries have pledged to handle all mail with equal care.

The UPU operates under an international agreement called the Universal Postal Convention. The convention lists postal rates and uniform procedures for handling first-class mail, including letters, post cards, and small packets. Separate agreements govern other services, such as parcel post, newspaper and magazine subscriptions, insured letters and boxes, and money orders.

Under the convention, in principle, each country keeps the postage it collects on international mail. But each must repay other members for the cost of transporting mail across their borders. Transportation charges are calculated by the UPU and are based on samplings of international mail usually taken every three years.

The *Universal Postal Congress* is the main legislative body of the UPU. It usually meets every five years in a member country to review and amend the convention. UPU legislation takes precedence over any conflicting

The Universal Postal Union, by a statue showing

national laws. However

The *Executive Council* handles UPU affairs between members, elected on representation. The *Consultative Assembly* conducts technical research. The *International Secretariat* may also clearhouse for settling

The first international postal convention was held in Bern, Switzerland, in 1874. It received its present name in 1947. The UPU is now a specialized agency of the United Nations.

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**POSTAL ZONE.** See

**POSTER** is a simple sign designed to promote a product or idea. Most posters are displayed where many people can see them.

The success of a poster depends on how well it is designed, so it must catch the eye and convey its message across quickly. Some posters, such as billboards, use a large size to relay their message. Others, such as a well-known poster in magazines, newspapers, and detailed information cards, use a smaller size.

The poster has been used for hundreds of years. It was first used in Europe in the 15th century. In the 19th century, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec created posters and lithograph stones. Some posters are now highly valued by collectors.

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†Since 1971, the postmaster general has been appointed by the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service instead of by the President.

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**POSTAL ZONE.** See POSTER. A simple, signed to promote a product or idea. Most posters are large and are displayed where many people can see them.

The success of a poster depends on whether the people are either riding or walking, so it must catch the eye and convey its message quickly. Some posters, such as billboards, use large letters to convey their message. Some posters are a well-known part of a well-known campaign, such as the "Don't Drink and Drive" campaign in magazines, newspapers, and on billboards.

The poster has been around for hundreds of years. It started in Europe. In the 16th century, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec created posters and supported the art of lithography. Surviving posters are highly valued by collectors.



## POST OFFICE

in special cars as the train moved across country. In small towns, mail sacks were picked up by catcher arms on the cars while the train was moving. The sacks were tossed from the moving train to the platform. Railway post office service ended in 1977. In 1864, the post office began selling money orders.

The U.S. Post Office began selling postal cards in 1873. The Universal Postal Union was founded in 1874 to improve international service. In 1885, special-delivery service was begun in America. The first Rural Free Delivery routes began in 1896 in West Virginia.

**In the 1900's.** In 1913, parcel post and C.O.D. services were introduced. By 1918, airplanes carried mail regularly (see AIRMAIL). In 1925, special handling service was made available.

In several U.S. cities, helicopters shuttle mail from the airport to the main post office, and from there to suburbs. The first such flight was in Los Angeles in 1947. Air parcel post service began in 1948. In 1953, the post office began flying regular first-class mail between certain cities.

Since 1900, the number of post offices in the United States has decreased. Modern rural carrier service, traveling on improved roads, has reduced the need for post offices in many small communities. In 1901, there were 76,945 post offices in the United States. Today there are about 30,000 United States post offices. They handle about 92 billion pieces of mail a year, almost half the total handled by the rest of the world's post offices. In the 1960's, many post offices began using automated mail-handling equipment.

In 1963, the post office also began the *Zoning Improvement Plan (ZIP)*, a fast, new system of mail sorting and distribution. Mailers use five-number *ZIP codes* in addresses on letters and packages. The numbers stand for postal regions, cities, and sections of large cities.

**Recent Developments.** The U.S. Postal Service, an independent agency, replaced the Post Office Department in 1971. When the Postal Service was created, it was expected to deliver mail more efficiently and become self-supporting by the mid-1980's. Instead, the agency reported annual deficits every year, chiefly because of rising labor costs.

The agency's financial problems grew despite a series of increases in postal rates. For example, the cost of mailing a first-class letter rose from 6¢ to 8¢ in May 1971, from 8¢ to 10¢ in March 1974, from 10¢ to 13¢ in December 1975, and from 13¢ to 15¢ in May 1978. To cut costs, the Postal Service proposed to cut mail delivery one day a week, to close a number of rural post offices, and to reduce other services. But many people protested the frequent rate increases and the proposed cutbacks in service. Some critics of the agency suggested that the government allow private firms to compete in mail delivery. Others proposed to put the independent Postal Service back under congressional control.

By law, only the U.S. Postal Service may deliver first-class mail, but private firms may handle other types. Rising postal rates brought a growth in private mail deliveries during the 1970's. Many firms specialized in mass delivery of advertising circulars, catalogs, magazines, and samples. Some electric power, gas, and water companies began to distribute their own bills.

Private parcel services took over much of the parcel post business formerly handled by the Postal Service.

In the mid-1970's, the agency established the National Bulk Mail System to deliver such items as magazines and parcels. Under this system, all bulk mail goes to one of 21 automated centers for processing. In 1974, the first mailgram transmitted by satellite was sent at the speed of light from New York City to Los Angeles.

### Canadian Postal System

The Canada Post Office has over 8,500 post offices and 50,000 employees. About 12,000 letter carriers serve Canadian cities and towns. The post office also operates a 145,000-mile (233,400-kilometer) network of rural mail delivery routes.

The Canada Post Office has modernized and diversified its services to meet the needs of its growing population, especially in urban areas. In 1970, its world-wide money order system was computerized. *Assured mail delivery*, which guarantees delivery on the next delivery day throughout the country, started in 1971 in Toronto. Also in 1971, Canada became the first country to fly all first-class mail weighing up to 8 ounces (227 grams) addressed to people in foreign countries.

By 1973, a Postal Code was in use throughout Canada. Unlike the U.S. ZIP Code, the Canadian Postal Code uses a letter-number combination in the form *ANA NAN*. The *A's* represent letters of the alphabet, and the *N's* represent numbers. The first three characters designate a large postal area. The next three narrow the destination, in some cases making it possible to even identify a specific building.

The Canada Post has developed a number of new services specially tailored for its customers' needs. A service called *Postpak* gives companies special rates for bulk shipment of their products in containers that eliminate some of the sorting steps. Another service, called *Telepost*, allows communications to be sent by wire and delivered by letter carrier.

Critically reviewed by  
the CANADA POST OFFICE and the U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

#### Related Articles in WORLD BOOK include:

Airmail	Parcel Post
Dead-Mail Office	Postal Card
Engraving and Printing, Bureau of	Postal Service, U.S.
Franking and Penalty Privileges	Postal Union, Universal
Franklin, Benjamin	Rural Delivery
Mail-Order Business	Stamp
Money Order	Stamp Collecting
	ZIP Code

#### Outline

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| I. How Your Letter Travels          | C. The Postman                  |
| A. In the Post Office               |                                 |
| B. Your Letter Goes on Its Way      |                                 |
| II. Importance of the Postal System |                                 |
| III. Post Office Services           |                                 |
| A. Postage Stamps                   | L. Collect on Delivery (C.O.D.) |
| B. Stamped Envelopes                | M. Registry                     |
| C. Postal Cards                     | N. Insurance                    |
| D. Metered Postage                  | O. Certificate of Mailing       |
| E. Precanceled Stamps               | P. Certified Service            |
| F. Presorted Mail                   | Q. Special Delivery             |
| G. Parcel Post                      | R. Express Mail                 |
| H. City Delivery                    | S. Mailgram                     |
| I. Rural Free Delivery              | T. Special Handling             |
| J. General Delivery                 |                                 |
| K. Post Office Boxes                |                                 |

## POSTAL SERVICE, UNITED STATES

- |                     |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| U. Dead-Mail Office | X. Other Services                   |
| V. Money Order      | Y. Postal Inspection                |
| W. Nonpostal Stamps | Z. Highway Transportation Contracts |

- IV. Postal Service Careers  
V. History  
VI. Canadian Postal System

### Questions

- What is postage?  
When did regular airmail service go into operation?  
Why should ZIP codes be given in addresses?  
How does a *post card* differ from a *postal card*?  
What are two requirements a town must meet to have city delivery?  
What are the four classes of mail? Give an example of each class.  
What did Franklin do for early American postal service?

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.** See POSTAL SERVICE, UNITED STATES.

**POSTAGE AND POSTAGE STAMP.** See POST OFFICE (Postage Stamps); STAMP; STAMP COLLECTING.

**POSTAL CARD** is a card with a printed postage stamp sold by a post office for forwarding through the mails. Austria issued the first postal cards in 1869. The United States first issued postal cards in 1873. See also POST OFFICE (Post Office Services).

**POSTAL SERVICE, UNITED STATES**, is an independent agency of the United States government. It provides mail services, including pickup and delivery, and sells postage stamps and money orders. The agency has headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Postal Service began operating in 1971, when it replaced the U.S. Post Office Department. The new agency was designed to provide better and more efficient mail service. It took over from Congress the power to appoint postmasters and to set postal rates and postal workers' salaries.

The Postal Service is one of the world's largest organizations. The agency operates about 30,000 post offices in the United States and its possessions. It employs more than 670,000 persons and has an annual budget of more than \$14 billion.

**Functions.** The Postal Service has the responsibility of delivering letters and other mail sent through post

offices. Its delivery services include city, village, and rural delivery; special delivery; and collect on delivery (C.O.D.). It sells postage stamps, postal money orders, and foreign money orders. Other mail services include certified mail, express mail, insured mail, registered mail, and parcel post. The Postal Service publishes the *Postal Manual*, the *Directory of Post Offices*, and the *National ZIP Code Directory*.

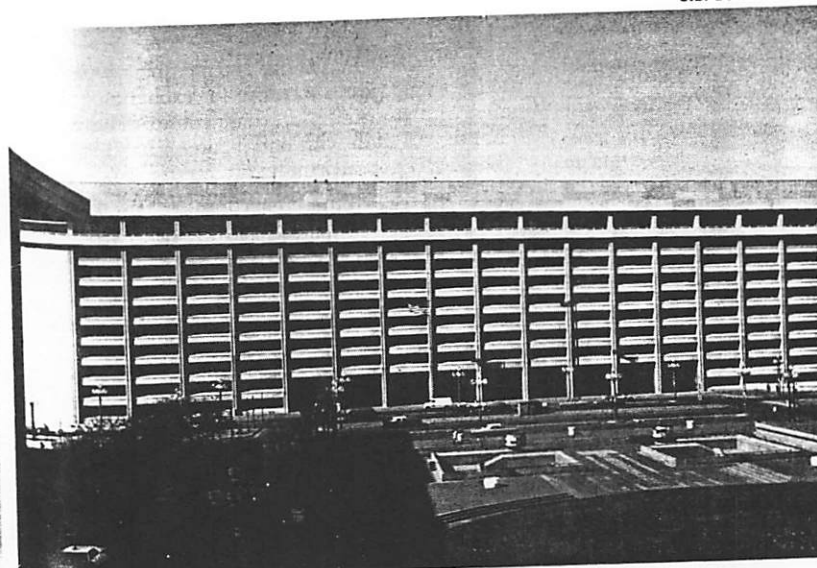
**Organization.** An 11-member Board of Governors directs the Postal Service. Nine of the members are appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate. These members appoint the postmaster general, who becomes the 10th member of the board and serves as the chief executive officer of the Postal Service. These 10 members, in turn, appoint the deputy postmaster general, who becomes the 11th member of the board and is the postmaster general's chief assistant. The postmaster general and the deputy are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the agency.

The Postal Service also includes an independent five-member Postal Rate Commission. The members are appointed by the President. They recommend postal rates and classifications for adoption by the Board of Governors.

Postal workers are part of a separate postal career service within the federal government. The Postal Service sets its own personnel procedures, and political recommendations for appointments and promotions are prohibited.

**Financing.** The U.S. Postal Service is authorized to borrow up to \$10 billion from the general public. The Department of the Treasury may be required to purchase postal obligations. The Postal Service also receives funds that are financed by general taxes. When the agency was created, it was expected to become self-supporting by the mid-1980's. Instead, the Postal Service experienced severe financial difficulties. For more information on the financial problems of the agency, see POST OFFICE (Recent Developments).

U.S. Postal Service



The United States Postal Service is an independent government agency that provides mail service to individuals and businesses throughout the nation. Its headquarters, left, are at 475 L'Enfant Plaza West SW, Washington, D.C. 20260. The seal, above, features an eagle.